Numb. 168

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

——— *O te, Bollane, Cerebri*
Felicem! Aiebam tacitus, cum quidlibet ille
Garriret. ——— Hor.

From *Saturday December* 23. to *Tuesday December* 26. 1710.

From my own Apartment,

AT my coming Home last Night, I found upon my Table the following Petition or Project, sent me from *Lloyd*'s Coffee-house in the City, with a Present of *Port* Wine, which had been bought at a late Auction held in that Place.

To Isaac Bickerstaff *Esq*; *Censor of* Great Britain.

Lloyd's Coffee-house, Lombard-street, Dec. 23.

'WE the Customers of this Coffee-house, observing that you have taken into your Consideration the great Mischiefs daily done in this City by Coffee-house Orators, do humbly beg Leave to represent to you, That this Coffee-house being provided with a Pulpit for the Benefit of such Auctions that are frequently made in this Place, it is our Custom, upon the first coming in of the News, to order a Youth, who officiates as the Kidney of the Coffee-house, to get into the Pulpit, and read every Paper with a loud and distinct Voice, while the whole Audience are sipping their respective Liquors. We do therefore, Sir, humbly propose, That there be a Pulpit erected within every Coffee-house of this City and the adjacent Parts; That one of the Waiters of the Coffee-house be nominated as Reader to the said Pulpit; That after the News of the Day has been published by the said Lecturer, some Politician of good Note do ascend into the said Pulpit; and after having chosen for his Text any Article of the said News, that he do establish the Authority of such Article, clear the Doubts that may arise thereupon, compare it with parallel Texts in other Papers, advance upon it wholesome Points of Doctrine, and draw from it salutary Conclusions for the Benefit and Edification of all that hear him. We do likewise humbly propose, That upon any such Politician's quitting the Pulpit, he shall be succeeded by any other Orator that finds himself moved by the same publick Spirit, who shall be at full Liberty either to enforce or overthrow what the other has said before him; and may in the same Manner be succeeded by any other Politician, who shall with the same Liberty confirm or impugn his Reasons, strengthen or invalidate his Conjectures, enlarge upon his Schemes, or erect new ones of his own. We do likewise further propose, That if any Person, of what Age or Rank soever, do presume to cavil at any Paper that has been read, or to hold forth upon it longer than the Space of one Minute, that he be immediately ordered up into the Pulpit, there to make good any Thing that he has suggested upon the Floor. We do likewise further propose, That if any one plays the Orator in the ordinary Coffee-house Conversation, whether it be upon Peace or War, on Plays or Sermons, Business or Poetry, that he be forthwith desired to take his Place in the Pulpit.

'This, Sir, we humbly presume may in a great Measure put a Stop to those superficial Statesmen who would not dare to stand up in this Manner before a whole Congregation of Politicians, notwithstanding the long and tedious Harangues and Dissertations which they Daily utter in private Circles, to the breaking of many honest Tradesmen, the seducing of several eminent Citizens, the making of numberless Malecontents, and to the great Detriment and Disquiet of Her Majesty's Subjects.

I do heartily concur with my ingenious Friends of the above-mentioned Coffee-house in these their Proposals; and because I apprehend there may be Reasons to put an immediate Stop to the Grievance complained of, it is my Intention, That till such Time as the aforesaid Pulpits can be erected, every Orator do place himself within the Bar, and from thence dictate whatsoever he shall think necessary for the publick Good.

And further, because I am very desirous that proper Ways and Means should be found out for the suppressing of Story-Tellers and fine Talkers in all ordinary Conversation whatsoever, I do insist, that in every private Club, Company, or Meeting over a Bottle, there be always an Elbow-Chair placed at the Table; and that as soon as any one begins a long Story, or extends his Discourse beyond the Space of one Minute, he be forthwith thrust into the said Elbow-Chair, unless upon any of the Company's calling out *to the Chair*, he breaks off abruptly, and holds his Tongue.

There are Two Species of Men, nothwithstanding any Thing that has been here said, whom I would exempt from the Disgrace of the Elbow-Chair. The First are those Buffoons that have a Talent of mimicking the Speech and Behaviour of other Persons, and turning all their Patrons, Friends and Acquaintance, into Ridicule. I look upon your *Pantomime* as a Legion in a Man, or at least to be like *Virgil*'s Monster, with an Hundred Mouths and as many Tongues.

——— *Linguæ centum sunt, Oraque centum.*

And therefore would give him as much Time to talk in, as would be allowed to the whole Body of Persons he represents, were they actually in the Company which they divert by Proxy. Provided however, That the said *Pantomime* do not, upon any Pretence whatsoever, utter any Thing in his own particular Opinion, Language or Character.

I would likewise in the Second Place grant an Exemption from the Elbow-Chair to any Person who treats the Company, and by that Means may be supposed to pay for his Audience. A Guest cannot take it ill if he be not allowed to talk in his Turn by a Person who puts his Mouth to a better Employment, and stops it with good Beef and Mutton. In this Case the Guest is very agreeably silenced, and seems to hold his Tongue under that Kind of Bribery which the Ancients called, *Bos in Lingua.*

If I can once extirpate the Race of solid and substantial Hum-drums, I hope, by my wholsome

and

and repeated Advices, quickly to reduce the insignificant Tittle-Tattles and Matter-of-Fact-Men that abound in every Quarter of this great City.

Epictetus, in his little System of Morality, prescribes the following Rule with that beautiful Simplicity which shines through all his Precepts: *Beware that thou never tell thy Dreams in-Company; for notwithstanding thou mayst take a Pleasure in telling thy Dreams, the Company will take no Pleasure in hearing them.*

This Rule is comformable to a Maxim which I have laid down in a late Paper, and must always inculcate into those of my Readers who find in themselves an Inclination to be very talkative and impertinent, That they should not speak to please themselves, but those that hear them.

It has been often observed by witty Essay-Writers, that the deepest Waters are always the most silent, that empty Vessels make the greatest Sound, and tinckling Cymbals the worst Musick. The Marquess of *Hallifax*, in his admirable Advice to a Daughter, tells her, That good Sense has always something sullen in it. But as Sullenness does not only imply Silence, but an ill-natur'd Silence, I wish his Lordship had given a softer Name to it. Since I am engaged unawares in Quotations, I must not omit the Satyr which *Horace* has written against this impertinent talkative Companion, and which I think is fuller of Humour than any other Satyr he has written. This great Author, who had the nicest Tast of Conversation, and was himself a most agreeable Companion, had so strong an Antipathy to a great Talker, that he was afraid some Time or other it would be mortal to him, as he has very humorously described it in his Conversation with an impertinent Fellow who had like to have been the Death of him.

Interpellandi locus hic erat: Est tibi Mater,
Cognati, queis te salvo est opus? Haud mihi quisquam.
Omnes composui. Felices, nunc ego resto:
Confice, namq; instat Fatum mihi triste Sabella,
Quod Puero cecinit divina mota anus Urnâ.
Hunc neq; dira venena, nec hostium auferet Ensis,
Nec Laterum dolor, aut Tussis, nec tarda Podagra,
Garrulus hunc quando consumet cunque: Loquaces
Si sapiat, vitet, simul atq; [illegible] Ætas.

Thus translated by Mr. *Oldham*:

'Here I got Room to interrupt: Have you
'A Mother, Sir, or Kindred living now?
'Not one, they all are dead. Troth, so I guest;
'The happier they (said I) who are at Rest.
'Poor I, am only left unmurder'd yet:
'Haste, I beseech you, and dispatch me quite.
'For I am well convinc'd my Time is come;
'When I was young, a Gypsy told my Doom.
'This Lad (said she, and look'd upon my Hand)
'Shall not by Sword or Poyson come to's End:
'Nor by the Fever, Dropsy, Gout, or Stone,
'But he shall die by an eternal Tongue.
'Therefore, when he's grown up, if he be wise,
'Let him avoid great Talkers, I advise.

In the Motto *of the last, for* Restrinxit, *read* Restinxit, *or* Perstrinxit.

Advertisements.

☞ The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; on a large Letter in Octavo, being almost finish'd; such as please to subscribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are desired to send their Names to Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, or John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where the First and Second Volumes are to be deliver'd.

AQua Stiptica Celeberrima; or, The most famous Stiptick Water, prepared and sold only by Sir William Read Kt. an approved Surgeon, and sworn Servant in the Quality of Oculist and Operator of the Eyes in Ordinary to Her Majesty Queen ANNE, at his House in Durham-Yard in the Strand, London. This Water has been approved of all over these Kingdoms, and most Parts of Europe, for stopping all Effusions of Blood after Amputation of Legs, Arms, Cancerated Breasts, or any Excrescencies, as appear by the many Sir William has taken off with wonderful Success, which have been arrested by both our Universities at Home, and others Abroad. 'Tis the usefullest Medicine any Surgeon can carry with him by Sea or Land. Note, He couches Cataracts, takes off Wens and Cancers, and cures Wry Necks and Hair Lips, tho' never so deformed, before he expects Payment, that the Publick may be satisfied they are served with Art and Honesty.

Bibliotheca Cotterelliana; or, A Catalogue of the Library of the late eminent and learned Sir Charles Cotterell, consisting of a large Collection of the most valuable Authors in Gr. Lat. Spanish, Italian, French, and English, the best Editions, and well bound; will begin to be sold by Auction on Monday January 8, at Exeter-Change in the Strand, from 5 to 8 every Evening till all are sold: By Edm. Curll, Bookseller, against St. Dunstan's Church, Fleetstreet, where Catalogues are to be deliver'd, at 6 d. each: Also by J. Harding at the Post-house in St. Martin's-lane, R. Parker under the Royal Exchange, H. Clements in St. Paul's Church-yard, B. Barker in Westminster-Hall, and at the Place of Sale.

MR. Lilly, Painter, being forced to give over his Business by his Indisposition, and having by him many Pictures of Her Majesty Queen Anne, he purposes to part with them for ready Money at under Rates, the Price of each Picture being mark'd upon it. They are of several Sizes: Some of them highly finish'd, and are to be seen at any Time of the Day, till sold, at the said Mr. Lilly's, one of the Bottom Houses in Beauford-Buildings in the Strand. There are also Pictures of Prince George, and of the Duke of Glocester: One very large Picture of K. Charles the Martyr upon the White Horse, after that of Sir Anthony Vandike in Kensington Gallery, with other Pictures.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Thursday the 28th Instant, at Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at 5 in the Afternoon precisely, (only one Cask in a Lot) 35 Buts of new Bene-Carlos, deep, bright and strong, and 15 Buts of new Salo, excellent Barcelona Wines, neat and entire, landed on the 23d Instant, now in a Warehouse, Numb. 132. in the Gate-way of Custom-house-Key, under the Custom-house. To be tasted this Day and to Morrow from 8 to 1, and from 2 till 5, and all Thursday till the Time of Sale. To be sold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane, between Tower-street and Crouched-Fryars.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Friday the 29th Instant, at Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at 4 in the Afternoon, about 60 Hhds and 12 Tierces of new excellent French Obrion Clarets of the very last Vintage, consisting of the best Qualities, the entire Cargo of a French Prize lately arrived in the River, and landed the 22d of this Instant. To be tasted to Morrow, and Thursday, from 8 to 1, and from 2 till 5, and all Friday till the Time of Sale. To be sold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Wednesday the 10th of January next, at Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, at 4 after Noon, about 36 Tuns of new excellent French (Prize) Claret, fresh, deep, bright, and of a most curious Flavour, of the best Growths, and of the very last Vintage; 5 Puncheons of French (Prize) Brandy, 4 Tuns of new French (Prize) White Wine, extraordinary good; 28 Barrels of new superfine Pruants, and 22 Chests of very good Soap; the entire Cargoes of two French Prizes brought into Dartmouth by Capt. Daniel Nastell of Guernsey, now in the Custody of Mr. Tho. Plumley, Merchant, in Dartmouth aforesaid. And there shall be expos'd to View and Tast the aforementioned Wines, Brandy, Pruans, and Soap, till the Time of Sale. Catalogues shall be timely dispersed. To be sold by Thomas Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane.

AT the Flower-de-Luce near Lyon's-Inn, behind St. Clements, on Thursday the 21st Instant, was opened three new Subscriptions on the Birth of a Child that shall live 24 Hours; in the first of which, for paying 5 s. for Policy and Stamps, and 10 s. Weekly after the 25th of January next, each Claimant will be intitled to 1000 l. if full, (and there be but one Birth in a Week) or a Dividend of all the 10 s. paid by the Subscribers; and in the 2d, for paying 2 s. 6 d. for Policy and Stamps, and 5 s. Weekly after the 25th of January next, will be entitled to 500 l. or a Dividend of all the 5 s. received from the Subscribers; in the 3d, for paying 2 s. 6 d. for Policy and Stamps, and 2 s. 6 d. Weekly, will be entitled to 250 l. or a Dividend of all the 2 s. 6 d. received as above: The two last subject to the same Orders and Limitations as the 1st. There is likewise two Books open'd for Marriages by a Weekly Dividend, wherein one may insure in their own or any other Marriage, in 2, 3, or 4 Months. The 5 s. Policy Book to pay 10 s. per Week after the 12th of February next; the 2 s. 6 d. Policy Book 5 s. a Week after the said Time, till their own Claim comes. Proposals for all may be had at the Office gratis.

THE Sale of Goods at Mr. Stocton's not being yet full, Notice is given, That it is, by the Consent of the Adventurers, defer'd till the 20th of January next, when it will most certainly be drawn, or the Money return'd; 2 s. each Ticket, 773 Prizes, one at 100 l. one at 50 l. two at 30 l. &c. 12 Blanks to one Lot. Tickets to be had at the said Mr. Stocton's at the Bell in Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden; at Mr. Amson's at the Gold Ring the Corner of Salisbury-Court; where Satisfaction may be had of the Value of the Goods, and the Goods seen, there being only a just and living Profit receiv'd; and at Mrs. Davis's, a Milliner in the Strand, near Hungerford-Market. Note, This is the very last Sale of Goods in this Manner.

THere is now opened, at the Hand and Heart Office in Eastharding-street, by New street, between Shoe-lane and Fetter-lane, an Insurance on Marriage in 3 separate Societies. The 1st, on Payment of 5 s. for Policy and Stamps, and 10 s. a Week on every Friday or Saturday after the first Day of March next, entitles the Subscribers to 1000 l. on Marriage, or the Dividend, if compleat. The 2d, 5 s. for Policy and Stamps, and 5 s. per Week from the Day aforesaid, to 500 l. on Marriage, or the Dividend. The 3d, 2 s. 6 d. for Policy and Stamps, and 2 s. 6 d. per Week from the Day aforesaid, to 250 l. or the Dividend. Thus the Charge being certain, every Subscriber knows what he has to pay, (and which is but a Trifle to what he will receive) and every Claimant receives his Money himself from the Subscribers the same Day it is paid into the Office, whereby he becomes his own Security, and is the fairest Proposal; and under the best Terms, of any yet published, as may be seen by the Proposals at large to be had at the Office gratis. It is the Advantage of all who design to enter to do it speedily, to prevent others from insuring on them. At the same Place are also 3 Societies for Payment of the like Sums on the Births of Children, and under the like Regulations.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertisements are taken in.